

THE REDCLIFF REVIEW

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FOR POISONING GOPHERS

One of the problems with which the prairie farmer is faced in the spring is that of reducing the number of gophers that have hibernated in and around his fields. Of the several methods, such as poisoning, fumigating and trapping, which have been utilized from time to time for this purpose, it would appear that poisoning is the best adapted to the use of the average farmer.

Wheat poisoned with strychnine sulphate has been used for many years for gopher control but, despite excellent results obtained with this, it is use has certain disadvantages. With the appearance of green growth in the spring the dry grains of poisoned wheat are no longer attractive to the gophers. This bait, therefore, is of value only early in the season.

In addition to this, the wheat that has been poisoned for gopher destruction is frequently eaten by the all too scarce prairie birds, such as horned and meadow larks. Poisoning these birds is of serious consequence, since each one of them is probably as great a friend of the farmer as the gopher is his enemy, for they destroy immense numbers of noxious insects, such as cutworms and grasshoppers.

In order to protect these birds from being killed by feeding on the poisoned wheat the latter is often placed in the gopher burrows instead of being scattered near the entrance to the hole. Unfortunately, the gopher does not feed on this grain while it is in the hole. Every day, however, he "cleans house" by kicking out any loose earth, or other material he finds in the burrow. In this way he scatters around the entrance all of the poisoned grain which may have been placed well into the hole. Should he chance to find any of these scattered grains he may feed on them and be poisoned, but he has placed them within reach of the birds which the farmer sought to protect.

Experiments have proven that both these disadvantages can be overcome by using oats instead of wheat for carrying the poison. Gophers will feed on poisoned oats throughout the summer. It has also been found that no small birds will feed on these oats at any time, while larger birds, such as poultry, prairie chicken and partridge are not susceptible to strychnine poisoning.

In the use of poison it has been found that "Strychnine Alkaloid" is far superior to "Strychnine Sulphate" for poisoning grain. Instructions for preparing this poison may be seen in another column of this issue.

BASEBALL

If the baseball games played here so far this season are any criterion, fans are in for an interesting summer in this line of outdoor sport. The games have been evenly contested and the players have shown that they are capable of putting up a good brand of ball.

If we were asked for suggestions for the improvement of interest and enjoyment on the part of the spectators we would say that the players cut out the grand stand and the comfortery stuff and get down to business from the drop of the bat to the final. An effort should also be made to get capable and experienced officials to act as umpires for the games. Nothing gets a crowd's goat more quickly than a series of raw decisions, or faultfinding with an umpire who is not sure of his ground. The success of a game and the despatch with which it is conducted depends largely on the umpire.

There has been a good attendance at the games and spectators are showing a keen interest in their favorites.

CANADA TALKS WATERWAYS

In connection with the St. Lawrence Great Lakes waterway scheme the Canadian-American, a paper printed in Chicago, says under the above heading:

The Canadian Parliament discussed the St. Lawrence Great Lakes Waterway scheme last week for several hours, and listened again to the pro and con argument that has become familiar to the people on both sides of the boundary.

Thomas L. Church, M.P., of Toronto, moved that the Commons go on record in favor of the project, not only as a magnificent economic and business asset, but as a further strengthening of the ties of friendship between the kindred nations.

"The greatest hope of the world today," said Mr. Church, who is a former Toronto mayor, "lies in the union of English-speaking peoples, and this scheme will prove one of the greatest factors in bringing such a union about."

John Millar, a plain-spoken Progressive from Saskatchewan, opposed the waterway, and had no hesitation in giving his reason, briefly and to the point. It would develop cities while the country was still undeveloped. He wanted to see Canada's millions of unplored acres sprouting golden grain before another city reared its plumed head from Halifax to Vancouver. Making the great lakes navigable to the north shore of Superior would also make congested centres at the expense of farming communities. He didn't like the idea; hence he opposed the lakes-to-ocean proposition.

There were other arguments against the waterway, but none any better than that of plain John Millar, who could not see that shortening the freight haul and facilitating transportation of immigrants and goods would inevitably bring hordes of new settlers and populate the prairie provinces. The very thing he wanted was the thing guaranteed by the Great Lakes-Atlantic route.

Dr. R. J. Manion, a physician and ex-service man from Fort William, spoke loudly and logically in favor of Mr. Church's motion. Dr. Manion showed how the waterway would develop Canada and increase her industrial and agricultural armies, cut in two her per capita debt in twenty years, and make the Great Lakes the Mediterranean of America. He pointed to the European cities which prospered because they had access to the sea, and predicted like prosperity at home. "He even foresaw better business for Montreal which opposed the scheme because it benefited the Montreal at large must help every part of it, in the last analysis.



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Finally, it would be a splendid monument to the Friendship of Canada and the United States. The applause that followed this statement showed that Canada's new Commons has a strong reciprocity contingent in its midst.

Next Sunday will be observed throughout Canada as "Mother's Day." Young man, how about writing her that letter you have been intending to write? She would appreciate it more if you could start off by saying "I have just come from church."

Valuable Experiments At Brandon Farm

Experiments that are in progress at Brandon experimental farm are in the raising, cross-breeding and feeding of hogs, turkeys and chickens. In addition, also in the raising of grade lambs. In feed husbandry, crop rotations are being continually tried out. In the first instance, of seven milking cows; in the second instance of fourteen heifers, all of the Shorthorn dual purpose strain. The general conclusion to be drawn from this test is, that sunflowers are not quite equal to corn as rangeland material, and that in preference where climatic conditions are favorable to its development. On the other hand, it has been shown that sunflowers are a practical and satisfactory forage where climatic conditions are such as to indicate their superiority as a crop over corn.

According to information gleaned from several sources it is understood that 5000 acres of the land in western Saskatchewan abandoned by the Menominites who trekked to Mexico has been purchased on behalf of a colony of 1000 Polish settlers who will come to Saskatchewan in the near future from Chicago.

Value of Corn and Sunflower Silage

One of the most interesting and most valuable of the experiments conducted in the winter of 1920-21 at Brandon experimental farm was as to the relative value of corn and sunflower silage in the feeding of cattle. This test was conducted in the feeding of, in the first instance, of seven milking cows; in the second instance of fourteen heifers, all of the Shorthorn dual purpose strain. The general conclusion to be drawn from this test is, that sunflowers are not quite equal to corn as rangeland material, and that in preference where climatic conditions are favorable to its development. On the other hand, it has been shown that sunflowers are a practical and satisfactory forage where climatic conditions are such as to indicate their superiority as a crop over corn.

MOVING MENNONITES TREK BACK TO B.C.

Discouraged with the climate and conditions of Mexico, whether they returned to a title in thousands, and unwilling to return to their former habitations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, a large portion of Canada's former Mennonite colony is disposed

Unveiling A War Memorial



On Friday, April 28, His Excellency Lord Byng, Governor-General of Canada, unveiled the fine bronze memorial which had been erected in the concrete of the Windsor Street C. P. R. Station at Montreal as a memorial to eleven hundred C. P. R. employees who gave their lives in the Great War. The above photograph shows His Excellency addressing the large crowd that had assembled to witness the unveiling, and at his right stands Mr. E. W. Hearty, President of the C. P. R. The guard of honor was composed of C. P. R. employees who were also war veterans. An exact copy of this statue was at the same time unveiled at Winnipeg by the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia. In the same day also the bronze tablets were unveiled at different points along the C. P. R. system as well as at the company's European, American and Asiatic offices. The base of the statue bore the following inscription: "To commemorate the Canadian Pacific Railway Company who at the call of King and Country endured hardship, faced danger and finally passed out of sight of men by the path of duty and sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom. Let those who come after see to it that their names be not forgotten." Roll-ments of C. P. R. employees totaled 11,840 men, of which 1,176 were killed or died of wounds, and 2,105 were wounded. A total of 1,073 were missing, and 1,073 were returned to Canada, following out a job as that which he had when he went away, and a total of 12,112 other returned soldiers have also been taken on the company's war decorations and medals won by C. P. R. employees totaled 270 and include the following: Victoria Cross, 1; Order of the British Empire, 6; Distinguished Service Order, 17; Distinguished Service Cross, 1; Military Cross, 54; Distinguished Conduct Medal, 67; Military Medal, 150.

to look favorably on settlement in British Columbia, according to Joseph Swinney, who has been making a tour through the Columbia valley on behalf of his compatriots.

GOVERNMENT WILL TEST SEED WITHOUT CHARGE

A return to the free seed testing policy on the part of the department of agriculture is announced by Hon. W. R. Meagher, minister of agriculture. From May 1 to the end of the following January hereafter the department will give to a service in seed testing, instead of charging 50 cents per sample during the busy months. Testing will be limited to ten samples from any individual firm.

Approximately 70,000 men, women and children are homeless in Mississippi and Louisiana as the result of the Mississippi river flood, and of this number 40,000 are being fed, sheltered and clothed by the Red Cross and other organizations. It was officially announced by various relief bodies. No provisions have been made to aid the 30,000 persons who have not received the refuge camps, the statement said.

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